

Tony marks league return with a goal

Clapton 2, Wycombe Wanderers 5.

FOR THE first time this season Wycombe Wanderers registered five Isthmian League goals away from home against very mediocre opposition in Clapton. This comfortable victory marked the return of Tony Horseman to league business after a five-week spell on the sidelines and Tony did not disappoint his followers, scoring with an 83rd-minute penalty.

The last occasion Wycombe cracked home five goals was back in October against Barking. They have only established one higher total in the league, against Hitchin—who crashed 6-1 at Loakes Park in the first week of the season.

Wanderers were hardly extended by Clapton and after scoring two early goals controlled the match at a leisurely pace. The Wycombe forwards were given plenty of room in which to work, with Thompson, in particular, supplying the drive in the back zone.

Wycombe recovered from a first minute shock, when Harris hit the post, to take the lead after 15 minutes. From a Gale free-kick, Merrick flicked in past the badly positioned Moore.

WORLEY ON TARGET

Eight minutes later, following a scramble around the edge of the Clapton box, Worley emerged in possession to crash home a scorching drive into the roof of the net.

Clapton, who really had little idea up front, reduced the deficit four minutes later when Harris, their most dangerous forward, headed a Cheese Wright corner past Bunting.

For the start of the second half Horseman lined-up in the centre-forward position although wearing the outside-left shirt. Tony was soon in action as he chased Kerr back towards his goal, winning the duel and sliding a pass

across the goal for Busby to tap in after 46 minutes.

Territorially there was little to choose between the two teams but once inside the 18-yard box, Wycombe established their superiority looking much sharper in front of the goal.

Thompson moved up to add his weight to the attack flashing a rising 20-yard drive narrowly over before Clapton springboarded in attack and scored their second in the 50th minute.

McPhee pushed a ball rather aimlessly through the middle—more in hope than by design—and Gale with Bunting moved to cut out the danger. However, Chivers forced Gale to clear hurriedly and his kick rebounded against the centre-forward's legs and into the empty net.

Clapton rather surprised by this stroke of good fortune tried to force the pace but never threatened to take command. In the 83rd minute Samuels was clearly upended, as he dribbled through, in the box and Horseman stroked home a shrewd penalty, sending Moore the wrong way.

Just two minutes from time Beaney attempted a stupid back-pass to his 'keeper and Busby, reading the situation well, pounced to slip round Moore and net.

Wycombe Wanderers: C. Bunting; I. Rundle, C. Gale; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, S. Thompson; L. Worley, V. Busby, L. Merrick, K. Samuels, A. Horseman.

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CLAPTON, two down early on, deserve credit for repeatedly fighting back until a penalty by Horseman took the wind from their sails.

Merrick started the scoring for Wycombe and Worley added a second before Harris headed in for Clapton.

After Busby scored for Wycombe in the second half Clapton had their best spell with a goal by Chivers. Then the luck fell away. Wycombe's last goal came from Busby.